

Katros Groves
1053 Biltmore Dr NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881

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December 24, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA00-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Docket #97N-0511
5630 Fishers Lane Rm 106 1
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Sirs or Ms:

The FDA pending proposed legislation requiring mandatory pasteurization of all fresh squeezed juices is getting beyond reason. Fresh squeezed orange juice has been around since the start of the citrus industry and there has never been a substantiated case where orange juice killed anyone! Fresh squeezed orange juice contain live enzymes, which are the "life force" behind all metabolic processes. No vitamin, mineral or hormone can do work without enzymes. Juice enzymes are only found in **raw(fresh)** juice that has not been heated above 118 degrees. Orange juice is a wholesome, nutritious healthy product. FDA proposal docket #97N-0511 should be expunged.

We have been in the citrus business since 1966 and have never had a case where anyone has either been sick or died from our juice. We recently spent our life savings into a new juice room to assure our quality and safety of our orange juice. We have independent laboratories that have conducted 5 log reduction tests on our process juice and always pass the tests.

It would be more appropriate for the FDA be more concerned with the hygiene of people that work in the food industry instead of the irrational approach of destroying a environmental safe product.

If there is anything you can do for the thousands of citrus business s like our, it would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mitch Katros
KATROS GROVES

97N-0511

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CITRUS DIRECT / KATROS GROVES

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